

ABSTRACT

A method for indicating the integrity of the use-information of a program, comprising: providing a mechanism based on the state of a marker file (being one or more files dedicated especially for this purpose) for generating upon request an asymmetric (i.e. can be read by a user but cannot be altered by him) and unique or pseudo-unique value; instructing the mechanism to generate a value; sealing the use-information with the generated value; and indicating the integrity of the sealed data by the correspondence of the stored value with the current value returned by the mechanism. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the information is stored in a secure manner (e.g. encrypted, digitally signed, and so forth). The invention may be implemented in any licensing model in which the use-information is important, like a Try before you Buy model, renting a program, and so forth.